



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
PAY-AS-YOU-GO ESTIMATE**

July 26, 2002

**H.R. 2175  
Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002**

*As cleared by the Congress on July 18, 2002*

H.R. 2175 would amend the U.S. Code by expanding the definition of the words “person, human being, child, and individual” as they are used in any act of the Congress or any administrative ruling, regulation, or interpretation. Under the legislation, such words are defined to include every infant born alive at any stage of development. The bill also defines the term “born alive.”

The interests of those who are born alive are recognized most commonly in the areas of tort law, trust and estate law, and criminal law. Because the words “person, human being, child, and individual” are used frequently throughout the U.S. Code, CBO cannot determine how the new definitions could be interpreted in all situations. However, CBO assumes that the bill would have no effect on trust and estate law and negligible effect on federal tort law. In the area of criminal law, CBO expects that the circumstances under which the new definitions could be used to bring lawsuits in federal court are limited. Therefore, we estimate that the effect of H.R. 2175 on the federal budget would be negligible.

Anyone prosecuted and convicted under H.R. 2175 could be subject to criminal fines. Collections of such fines are recorded in the budget as governmental receipts (revenues), which are deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and spent in subsequent years. CBO expects, however, that any additional receipts and direct spending would be negligible because it is not likely that the federal government would pursue many cases under this bill.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lanette J. Walker. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.